RECIPE FOR MAKING "AVENTURINE."—This costly and beautiful sort of glass, used for the ornamenting of objects of art and vertu—could not be hitherto made but at Venice. Only so much was known, that it was very minute crystals of metallic copper of great lustre, which, mixed throughout the mass of dark yellow-reddish glass, imparted to this substance that lustrous and iridescent appearance, for which it was so much praised. Messrs. Frémy and Calendeau, chemists, have lately laid before the French Institute their procedure of making this valuable substance. It consists in the mixing of pounded glass with hammerschlag and oxide of copper, and keeping both for a considerable time in a state of fusion. By these means, the copper crystallizes in the glowing mass of glass in the shape of small octobedra, which being dispersed through the mass, impart to it that beautiful scintillating appearance. Still the original Venetian samples and those made by Messrs. Frémy and Calendeau were not of equal quality, the mass of glass wherein the crystals are imbedded, being in the former clear and pellucid, in the latter rather soily, and only transparent: the crystals in the Venetian are large, very regular; in the French, small, irregular, and fibrous. The principle, however, is found, and it will only require (as with every thing else) time and experience to equal the Venetian patterns. This information may be useful to our now unshackled glass manufacturers.

THE PLANTERS' HOUSES IN THE MAURITIUS.—They are built in detached pieces, so that a great deal of ground is covered by the buildings belonging to one residence. These consist generally of a principal dwelling-house, and a number of small buildings, which in India are called "bungalows," here "pavilions." They have generally a verandah attached to them, and commonly contain two or three small rooms, which are used as apartments for visitors—a mode of lodging them which possesses many recommendations, though they are somewhat counterbalanced by the fact of their having to provide themselves, on retiring to rest, with cloaks, lanterns, and umbrellas, in order to make their way through a storm of thunder, lightning, rain, and wind, to their bedrooms, situate perhaps at the very extremity of the establishment. The principal dwelling-house usually contains a "salle à manger," and a "salle de compagnie," or drawing-room, on the ground floor, over which are bed-rooms, occupied exclusively by the planter and his family. The staircase is generally on the outside; the kitchen and store-room all detached buildings. The drawing-rooms are generally furnished in a showy manner, with a superabundance of looking-glasses. The dining-room is the worst apartment in the house. The floor is of dark wood, which generally takes a fine polish, and by being rubbed every morning with wax and a brush, rivals a mahogany table in brilliancy.—*England's Colonial Empire.*

HOISTING.—On the morning of the 31st ult., while the workmen at the Hamburgh Theatre were hoisting to its place a splendid bronze chandelier for gas lights, just brought from London, and weighing above 10,000 lbs., the rope broke, and the enormous mass, falling to the ground, was broken to pieces, crushing two Englishmen who had come over to superintend its being suspended.—*Morning Herald.*

ARCHITECT FOR ST. CLEMENT DANES.—The managers of the St. Clement Danes Holborn Estate Charity, requiring an architect to spend about 10,000*l.* in building some almshouses, advertised for parties willing to act in that capacity. Thirty applications were sent in, and on Thursday last, "Mr. Hesketh, builder, of Arundel-street," was appointed!

THE ROAD IN FLEET-STREET.—The appearance presented by the paved way laid down in Fleet-street, the execution of which has annoyed all London for some weeks past, is far from satisfactory. The surface is irregular, here and there convex instead of concave, and, indeed, appears in parts to have sunk considerably.

FREE EXHIBITION.—The exhibition of pictures and sculpture, selected by the Art Union of London prizeholders, was visited last week by more than 50,000 persons, without the occurrence of the slightest accident or disturbance. In the present week the numbers have been even greater still.

WEST LONDON RAILWAY.—A meeting of the shareholders was held on Wednesday last, to receive the report of arbitrators, appointed to decide the rate at which the rent to be paid by the London and Birmingham Company shall be apportioned to the different classes of shareholders. Considerable displeasure was expressed on account of the Birmingham Company not having opened the line for passenger traffic. The inhabitants of Kensington, Hammersmith, Bayswater, and other large districts, are forced unnecessarily to travel to Euston-square and Paddington with locked-up stations at their own doors.

SALE OF SOUTHEND PIER.—An attempt was made on Friday week to sell by auction the pier at Southend, the longest it is said in Europe (unless the Leith pier now exceed it), as it extends to a length of a mile and a quarter at low-water mark. The bidding began at 10,000*l.*, and rose to 16,000*l.*, at which sum it was bought in by the Public Works Loan Commissioners, the mortgagees in possession according to law, for advances for its construction. The materials alone, exclusive of the rights and privileges, are said to be worth 10,000*l.* to 12,000*l.*

THE NATIONAL GALLERY is closed and will remain so till the 26th of October. The East-India Company's Museum, where there is a collection of curiosities well deserving examination, is closed till the 30th of the present month.

NOTICES OF CONTRACTS.

[We are compelled, by the interference of the Stamp Office, to omit the names of the parties to whom tenders, &c. are to be addressed. For the convenience of our readers, however, they are entered in a book, and may be seen on application at the office of "The Builder," 2, York-street, Covent-garden.]

For the erection of a new workhouse at Gravesend, on a plan altered and reduced from the former one.

For building about 600 yards of sewers at Ventnor, Isle of Wight.

For cleansing about 1,400 feet of sewer in the Edgware-road, Mary-le-bone.

For the erection of a school and teacher's residence at Steer Green, near Beaconsfield.

For building sewers in Digbeth, St. Martin's-lane, and Edgbaston-st. Birmingham, a length of 364 yards, class B.

For deepening and widening the Louth Forty Foot River from Gutheran Cote to Dowsby Lode, or thereabouts, and such other works as the engineer will recommend to be proceeded with, or as may be expedient.

For the Needham Market and Thurston stations on the Ipswich and Bury St. Edmund's Railway (short extension of same).

For the mason and brick work required in the erection of a church in the Trinity district of the parish of Rotherfield Greys, Henley-on-Thames.

For the plaster work required in the erection of the Trinity District Church, at Henley-on-Thames.

For the wright and carpenter work required in the erection of the Trinity District Church, at Henley-on-Thames.

For the slater, plumber, glazier, and other work required in the erection of the Trinity District Church, at Henley-on-Thames.

For repairing and keeping in repair for three years, certain roads at Norwich.

For iron roofing, to cover an area of 480 feet in length by 120 feet in breadth, over the passenger shed at the Dublin terminus of the Midland Great Western Irish Railway.

For the supply of 100 tons of cast scrap iron, free of rubbish.

For six locomotive engines and tenders for the Dundalk and Enniskillen Railway Company.

For the erection of stables and sheds on the Workhouse ground of the Midleton Union Cork promptly).

For painting the whole of the old exterior work of the Middlesex Hospital buildings, twice, in the best oil colours, in a workmanlike manner.

For a supply of Guernsey granite chippings and Kentish Ragstone, by the yard, to be delivered at Camberwell to the Board of Poor Law Guardians.

For lighting the streets of Stow-market for seven months.

For the whole of the works on that part of the Aberdeen Railway from Dee to the Cove, a length of about five miles.

For the whole of the works on that part of the Aberdeen Railway from Water of Cowie to Blackhills, a length of about two miles and a half.

For 20,000 to 30,000 oak or hazel rods, 10 to 15 feet long for Kirkaldy, Scotland.

For several first-rate masons at Windsor: liberal wages.

For several gas-chandelier makers for making gas pendants.

For letting on lease premises for a plumber or painter in Edgeware-road.

For the disposal of an oil and colourman's business in town: no premium.

For the disposal of a gas-fitter and ironmonger's business close to the city.

For the disposal of a forged nail manufacturer's business at Birmingham.

For the disposal of an iron-foundry business in the country.

For two journeymen glasiers, at Edinburgh.

For a painter to go to Demerara, as foreman, to imitate marbles and woods, and able to write: wages for three years, 60*l.*, 70*l.*, and 80*l.*, besides board.

For a brick and tile maker, also for two additional hands, at Lynn.

For the letting of a brick-kiln near Lynn, with jamb of fine brick earth.

For the letting of waterside premises for a builder, stonemason, &c., at Lambeth.

For the letting of a granite quarry in Angylsea.

For the letting or disposal of the well-known engineering, foundry, and machine-making works, in Hutchenson-town, Glasgow.

APPROACHING SALES OF WOOD, &c.

BY AUCTION.

At Witherswork Wood, near Hull: about 3,000 oak, ash, and other trees, in small lots.

At Ingleby Wood, Lancashire: 66 acres of growing timber.

At Wivenhoe, Essex: several thousand feet of oak sizes in convenient lots.

At Nidd Leeds: a quantity of timber and bricks.

At Saffron Walden, and Arkden, Essex: 100 oak timber trees, 70 ash ditto, 69 oak and ash saplings, &c.

At Southampton: a cargo of Canadian wood goods.

At Boxted, near Colchester: ash and oak timber.

At Pimlico: a builders stock in trade, comprising 700 dry yellow deals and planks, flooring and lining boards, &c., with stone, tools, apparatus, &c.

At Southampton: a large quantity of paper hangings.

At Liverpool: an extensive assortment of paper-hangings.

At Birkenhead: a varied stock of paper-hangings.

At Leeds: a stock of paper-hangings.

At Cork: the glass-works.

At Wolverhampton: an edgetool makers stock in trade.

At Hartshill, near Dudley: a high pressure steam-engine with appurtenances, an 800 gallon wrought-iron tank or gasometer, smith's bellows, &c.

At Leicester: an iron and brass foundry.

At Cairns, near New Alyth, Scotland: about 220 lots of old larch, fit for building or sleepers.

At the late Earl of Bessborough's estates in Ireland: the largest plantation of timber in Ireland, and fit for sleepers, &c.

At Southwark: a stock of architectural ornaments, artificial stone statues, figures, &c.

At 2, Berners-street, Oxford-street: 4,000 pieces of paper-hangings.

At Bromley, Kent: about 600,000 stock and place bricks, in lots of 5,000 to 10,000.

BY PRIVATE TENDER.

At Poole: a cargo of Riga timber and deals.

At Southampton: a cargo of Canadian wood goods.

At Woodchester-park, Gloucestershire: an extensive lot of oak trees.

At Callander, Perthshire: 2,000 to 3,000 Scots fir trees, planted in 1770, and fit for building or for sleepers.

At Southampton: a cargo of Canadian wood goods.

At Woodchester-park, Gloucestershire: a quantity of oak timber of large size.

At Lynn: 100,000 clamp bricks.

At Hythe: 300,000 white bricks at reduced prices.

At Kirkstall, near Leeds: three well cranes, &c.

At Birmingham: a builder's business of seven years standing.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"*Catholicus*," accuses us discourteously of bigotry, on the ground that we do not describe the different Roman Catholic churches which are from time to time consecrated. We should have cause to blush if the accusation were true, and challenge "Catholicus" to point out a single sentence ever written by us to justify his assertion. Even if we did not personally profess toleration in its widest sense, art is of no sect or party. "Catholicus" must be aware that for descriptions of provincial buildings we are mainly dependent on correspondents. As to the structure of which he speaks, St. Giles's church at Cheadle, we should gladly insert any revised account.

"*C. B.*"—A notice to the district surveyor is unnecessary.

"*J. Yates.*"—The intention of our correspondent was precisely the reverse from that supposed by "J. Y.," and will be so understood by all those who have read our previous articles on contracts.

"*C. B. A.*"—No further modifications of the Buildings Act have yet been made.

"*T. J. M.*"—A memorial to the sewers' Commissioners would probably be useless; the landlords should sue.

"*W. D. C.*"—The present Act of Parliament does not set forth any price for party walls.

"*Mechanic.*"—Apply to a patent agent. We may name Messrs. Barlow and Le Capelain, Nos. 99 and 56, Chancery-lane.

"*J. R. N.*" shall appear.

"*Cerulus.*"—To become a candidate for admittance to the Antiquarian Society, a recommendation signed by four fellows is necessary.

"*Paint on old Iron.*"—A Correspondent says, "I am requested to paint, or otherwise renew, the iron railing round the church-yard, but I find it in a very rusty and cankered state, as it is now 20 years since it was painted. I am at a loss to know how to act with it, being told that if painted now, although well cleaned, the paint would all come off again. Can any of your readers advise me as to the best plan to proceed on?"

"*Future Question.*"—Article postponed, plan not being engraved in time.

Received.—"A Professional Man." "An Idle Draughtsman." Kelly's "Practical Builders' Price Book."

*** Correspondents are requested to address all Communications to the EDITOR, 2, York-street, Covent-garden.

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